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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 1998, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1998

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 5, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN E. PETERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With all the tasks before us and the competing voices that demand attention, may we hear Your still, small voice, O God, that calls us to lift our eyes to see Your vision and to hold fast to our faith to see each day through. We pray, O loving God, that Your grace will be sufficient for all our needs and Your promises will lead us in the way of truth and righteousness. Guide us in the day and protect us all the night through so that we will be good stewards of Your gifts to us. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes per side.

TRIBUTE TO ILLINOIS VFW MAN OF THE YEAR JOE BERG

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to Illinois VFW Man of the Year, and Collinsville native, Joe Berg. Mr. Berg was selected from nearly 100,000 Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars to be named the 1997-98 Man of the Year and has been a dedicated leader in both his post and the state VFW organization.

Mr. Berg has held numerous positions with the VFW, most recently serving

as a state public relations director, district commander, and chaplain in local post 5691.

Joe also has served the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in many positions and has balanced his life between his church, family, and the VFW. I am proud to recognize this veteran who has answered the call to serve in so many ways throughout his life, and I offer him congratulations and thanks on behalf of all veterans.

It is with the tireless efforts of people like Joe Berg that the memories and deeds of those who fought on foreign soil will not be forgotten.

HOUSE TASK FORCE ON SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we all know the name Russell Weston, Jr., and we all know that he tragically took the lives of two fine Americans, Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson. But many Americans still do not know that this tragedy could have been avoided, not by installing even more security here, but by improving the state of health care available to the seriously mentally ill among our citizens.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The state of psychiatric care in our country has spawned growing homelessness, more neglect, as well as increasing violence since deinstitutionalization of mental patients occurred over 2 decades ago with no community follow-up.

The gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) and I are working hard to establish a special House task force on serious mental illness. This task force would be responsible for examining the state of our mental health system, especially those who are not being adequately treated. This task force would gather testimony about what America can and should do.

Please support our effort to establish a task force on mental illness. Contact the leadership. Urge them to move so we can begin to repair the tattered dreams of millions of American families.

NATIONAL GAMING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. The counterfeit logic of some Washington bureaucrats is once again putting the sovereignty of every state in this Nation at risk.

On January 22 of this year, the Secretary of the Interior unilaterally made a regulatory decision that would literally strip every state of their most fundamental rights, rights established under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. It seems the Secretary's new regulation would give him the sole individual authority to approve Indian gaming in any state. Not the voters, not even the governor, nor the elected officials of that state would have a decision.

This unconscionable trampling of the Tenth Amendment is taking reserved rights from us, from our states, from our governor, from our elected officials and unilaterally vesting them in some Washington bureaucrat.

Fortunately, the nonpartisan National Gaming Impact Study Commission, which was created by Congress to study the impacts of gaming, made a bold but necessary policy decision telling the Secretary to rein in his proposed Indian gaming rules and to reestablish fair and equitable relationships between the States and respective Indian tribes.

DRACULA OF CANVAS LAST OFFERING

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, David Bowie and Yoko Ono have sponsored Herman Nish's 6-day Orgy Mystery Theater. In the name of art, 3 bulls and 6 pigs will be castrated, disemboweled, then eaten by a live audience.

A press release says Nish's students will not only paint with the fresh blood of these sacrificed beasts but also their entrails.

Who is this guy teaching? Jeffrey Dahmer? Ridiculous. If that is not enough to massage your Mona Lisa, art critics say this is an improvement over this Dracula of canvas last offering.

My colleagues, this guy decorated beautiful, naked women with the bowels of dead animals. Beam me up. What is next, folks? The Lorena Bobbitt do-it-yourself art expo?

This art business is out of control. We have gone from Michelangelo and Picasso to Herman Nish and Charlie Kruger. I yield back any body parts left after this expo.

PLIGHT OF PRAIRIE DOGS

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the National Wildlife Federation of Vienna, Virginia has petitioned to have the Black Tail Prairie Dog listed as an endangered species in 10 western states.

Understand, this was not your run-of-the-mill petition but a request for an emergency listing due to the loss of habitat. While supporters of the petition admit that the prairie dog population is not critically low, the logic seems to be that we should protect them now because some day they might be endangered.

Let me tell my colleagues about the prairie dog. They are everywhere in the West. If they want habitat, come west, we specialize in habitat for prairie dogs. With all the growth we have had along the front range of Colorado, they are still in abundance.

If we fly over the West, we see the ground plowed as if it were plowed by a steel plow. But it is not. It is by prairie dogs. If my colleagues are familiar with the West, they know that the prairie dog is no more endangered than the fly or the gopher.

Maybe we should arrange a trade: We will protect the prairie dog if the East Coast agrees to protect the gopher and the terribly endangered house fly.

By the way, prairie dogs, not dogs. They are rats.

RENO THREE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee asked questions about a scandal that is even more serious than Filegate, even more outrageous than Travelgate, and even more troubling than Whitewater.

This Oversight Committee asked the Justice Department's two top investigators why an independent counsel has not been named to investigate mountains of evidence that the Demo-

crat Party took nearly \$3 million in illegal campaign contributions from Communist China.

One would think that the penetration of the American electoral system by a foreign power, a communist dictatorship with 13 nuclear missiles aimed at our shores no less, would not be a partisan issue.

What are we to conclude from the other side's total lack of interest in getting to the bottom of this shocking scandal? What are we to conclude from the other side's silence, total silence, in the face of FBI Director Louis Freeh and Justice Department investigator Charles LaBella's public pleas for an independent counsel to investigate this matter?

I really would hate to even speculate.

WESTERN SAHARA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all parties involved in the 20-year conflict over Western Sahara to fulfill their commitments under the Houston Agreement and the United Nations mandate.

The parties negotiated a cease-fire with the understanding that the people of Western Sahara themselves could participate in a free, fair, and transparent referendum to decide their own future either as a part of Morocco or as an independent country.

However, the July 10 report by Secretary General Kofi Annan raises particular issues of concern about the referendum process: Obstructions to the UN opening an office in the territory, the lack of progress in the demining of the territory, and the refusal of Morocco to identify 2,000 individuals to vote in the referendum.

Mr. Speaker, a free, fair and transparent referendum is vital to lasting peace and increased stability in North Africa. All parties involved in the referendum process should maintain their commitments to the utmost.

A failure to hold a referendum would be a failure to all parties involved, including the international community.

VIOLATED CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

(Mr. COOK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I am not in the habit of always quoting from the New York Times editorials because they are often reliably hostile to conservative values and to the Republican Party. But I think that is what makes this New York Times July 23 editorial so remarkable, which I invite everyone to consider carefully.

Charles LaBella, Attorney General Janet Reno's hand-picked investigator to oversee the campaign finance probe,